



Judson House, 967 Academy Hill, Built C1750  
and Catharine B. Mitchell Museum, 1958

## The Stratford Historical Society

Box 382, Stratford, Connecticut 06497  
Telephone 378-0630

November, 1984

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FRIDAY, NOV. 16, 1984 at 8:00 P. M.  
at CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2000 MAIN STREET, STRATFORD

Following a brief business meeting Manya Piels will present a program entitled "Stratford Quilts of the Nineteenth Century." Mrs. Piels has been actively involved in American antiques and textiles for more than twelve years. Her fascination with the artistry and workmanship of early quilts and their makers began when she bought her first quilt at a house sale in rural New Hampshire. As time past her collection grew to the point that, running out of room, she started to sell some of her quilts; soon her interests became a business.

Today she specializes in nineteenth century quilts, samplers, and hooked rugs, and she exhibits regularly at antique shows. Mrs. Piels has lectured on quilts to various local groups and clubs, and has catalogued several local historical associations collections. She is listed as a source for textiles in Mary Emmerling's book American Country.

This program promises to be a special treat for us in that the focus will be directly on our own collection of fine Stratford quilts of the past century. Some of the quilts discussed will be on display at the meeting.

We hope you have seen about town the attractive posters informing the public of the availability of our 1985 Wilcoxson Old Stratford Photograph Calendars at \$4.00 at various centers, namely: Catalano's News Store, Colonial Square Art Shop, Hamilton's Pharmacy, Oronoque Orchards, Pineapple Junction Gift Shop, Sterling House, Steve's Super Market, the Town Clerk's office at the Town Hall, the West Shore Market, and Marnick's.

We are very grateful to our member, Ralph Parker, for the poster idea, to Henry "Hank" McLaughlin for doing the lay-out art work, and to Matt Welgrin, head of Bell Rock Color, Inc., for pringing the posters, all as a donation of time and talent.

Calendars are selling well but not well enough. Our calendar committee chairman, Bob Burns, strongly urges that members, after buying their own calendar supply, act as salespersons to influence neighbors and friends to purchase our fine publication. This would help greatly in giving us a profit in excess of the approximate \$2700 made from the project last year. Members who live out of town are reminded that mail orders for calendars at \$5.00 each (\$1.00 extra to cover postage) will gladly be filled. An order form will be found at the end of the newsletter.

If you can name any of the locations and/or people as yet unidentified, we would appreciate hearing from you. Please tell me or Lew Knapp so that the identifications can be completed.

The September newsletter contained a request for further financial support from you in numerous areas. Mr. and Mrs. Hildreth Winton have donated \$1000 to the Endowment Fund in memory of Mrs. Winton's parents Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Peck. Also Anna Webb Braman (Mrs. David E.) has recently given our Society \$250 to be used for the purchase of laurel to be planted on our grounds in memory of her parents. In her letter announcing this gift, Mrs. Braman says, "My parents, the late Irving and Charlotte Webb, were very interested in laurel as we had an extensive planting of it at my former home on North Main Street, Stratford." It is especially gratifying to know that former Stratford residents retain such strong affectionate ties to their hometown.

The Accessions and Inventory committees continue to catalog the items which have been in the Society's collection for many years. All of these items were registered (listed by donor name and accessions number and briefly described) upon their arrival at the Society. Due to a lack of personnel, some of these gifts have not previously been given permanent locations or had file cards made for them. Thanks to the diligence of all the previous volunteers, the current task of completing the cataloging is not as difficult as it might be.

Records of gifts from 1925 to the present are used each time an article is to be catalogued. Your Society has been fortunate to have, through the years, dedicated volunteers who have kept records current and who have not disposed of old records thought to be not needed. We find a frequent need to refer to original contracts and listings in our accessions books. Thank goodness for good records!

As mentioned in the previous newsletter our Antique Show will be held on Saturday, March 23, 1985 at the Baldwin Center. When doing your Fall cleaning won't you keep our booth in mind? Given sufficient time our talented volunteers can repair and refurbish an amazing variety of items. Our weavers are anxious to have chairs to cane. If you have seatless chairs you would like to get rid of, please let us know. These will sell at the show. If you wish a new seat for your own use, our weavers will do it for a reasonable fee. You may call either Bonnie Paradies (377-2332 after 3 p. m.) or Hiram Tindall (874-1819), if you need to have your items picked up.

During the touring season just ended our head guide, Jean Wilcoxson, was seriously ill. Thankfully she has made a good recovery. During her absence the following people gave up their Wednesday, Saturday, or Sunday to fill in for her. Without their help we would have had to restrict the hours we were open to the Public. They were:

Mrs. Betty Applegate  
Mrs. Joan Barlow  
Mrs. Carol Brancato  
Mrs. Kathy Breeding  
Mrs. Jane Claussen

Mrs. Mary Dickgiesser  
Mr. Elden Dustin  
Mr. Henry Fagan  
Mrs. Florence Feher  
Ms. Helen Ferriter

Mrs. Betty Hanusovsky  
 Mrs. Delores Hctor  
 Mrs. Maria Hvizdo

Ms. Jane Lafferty  
 Mrs. Adelaide Langbein  
 Mrs. Barbara Olsen

Our corps of docents have proved invaluable to the Society over the years. Won't you consider becoming one? Betty Applegate, education chairman, will start the docent training program in January. You may call her at 377-4224 so that you can learn more about Judson House and Stratford.

For the Book of Remembrance Velmore Spamer, Assistant Treasurer, reports the following contribution has been received since the last newsletter:

In Memory of the Reverend and Mrs. F. Stanley Selleck for their devotion to the Stratford Historical Society from Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Fowler

Before I close—just a reminder that our meeting and program on Stratford Quilts of the Nineteenth Century will be held at Christ Episcopal Church on Nov. 16, at 8 p. m.

Sincerely,

Judith M. Kurmay  
 (Mrs. Paul Kurmay)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

# of CALENDARS (\$4 ea. \$5 if mailed) \_\_\_\_\_

Address Mail Orders to: Mr. Joseph Moore  
 Stratford Historical Society  
 Box 382  
 Stratford, Ct. 06497